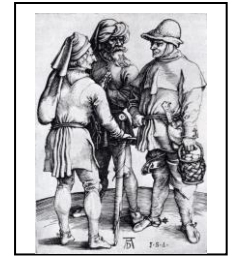


The Fifty-Third Season of the
**TORONTO RENAISSANCE AND
REFORMATION COLLOQUIUM**

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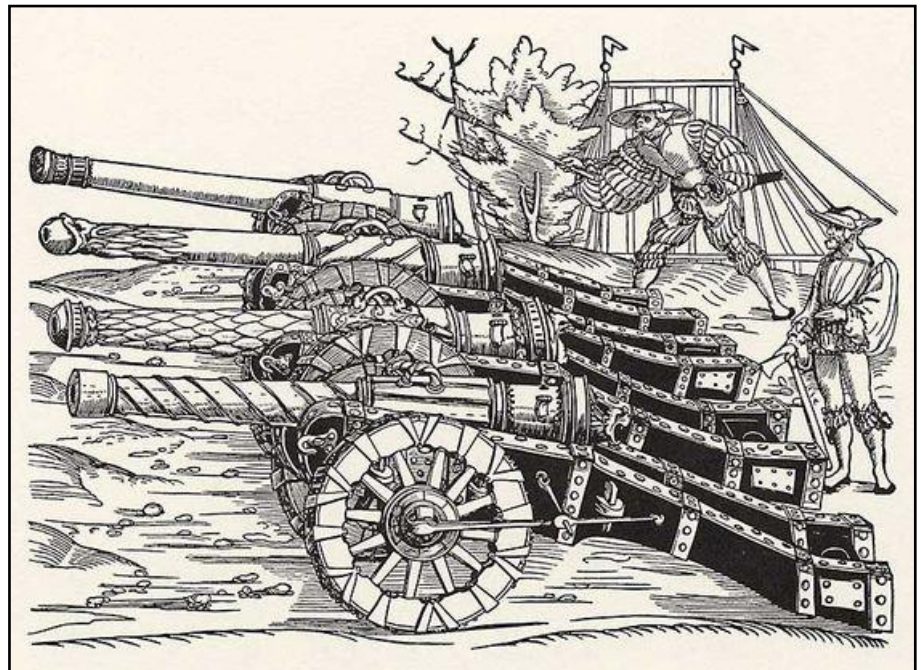


Randall Martin
(University of New Brunswick)

**“Shakespeare and Ecological Modernity:
Wood, Glass, Gunpowder”**

**Monday, 12 March 2018,
4:00 p.m.
Senior Common Room,
Victoria College
(rear of) 93 Charles St. West**

This talk will consider how Shakespeare connects early modern environmental history to ecological crises in the Anthropocene. The origins of some of today’s most urgent environmental problems – deforestation, fossil-fuel use, and the military industrial complex – can be traced to the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Staging contextual representations of these trends, Shakespeare set up imaginative dialogues with spectators’ material lives and fostered new ecological awareness of the consequences of economic growth, personal consumption, and capitalized exploitation of the earth. In these moments of shared recognition, Shakespeare also points towards the folly of human aspirations to dominate the planet and today’s belated understanding of the biosphere’s long-term, infinitely complex sovereignty over us.



Randall Martin graduated from the universities of Toronto, Birmingham, and Oxford and now teaches at the University of New Brunswick. He is the author of *Shakespeare and Ecology* (2015) and *Women, Murder, and Equity in Early Modern England* (2007). He has edited *Every Man Out of His Humour* for the *Cambridge Complete Works of Ben Jonson* (2012), *Henry VI Part Three* for the *Oxford Shakespeare* (2001), and *Women Writers in Renaissance England* for *Longmans Annotated Texts* (1997). With Katherine Scheil he has co-edited *Shakespeare / Adaptation / Modern Drama: Essays in Honour of Jill L. Levenson* (2011). He is currently finishing a book entitled *Shakespeare, St Paul, and the Origins of Dramatic Modernity*.

Image: Erhard Schön, “Two Landsknecht and Four Cannons.” *Die Belagerung von Münster* (1535)